

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is pending in this application. By this amendment, Claim 1 is amended; and no claims are canceled or added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,763,971 to Takahata in view 20030104246 to Watanabe; and Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takahata and Watanabe and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,369,476 to Sung.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied art does not teach or suggest a superconductor unit including a plurality of circumferentially divided superconductor bulks, the adjacent superconductor bulks coming into contact with each other without a gap, to constitute the superconductor unit, as recited in Claim 1.

The Office Action acknowledges that neither Takahata nor Watanabe discloses the features of the claimed invention discussed above. However, the Office Action asserts that Sung makes up for these deficiencies. Applicants respectfully disagree. Specifically, Sung shows a superconductor unit comprising two semi-cylindrical superconductor bulks arranged around the upper half of the rotor and lower half of the rotor, respectively, as seen from the front. However, as shown in Figure 7A and as described in column 5, lines 50 to 52, there exists a gap between the adjacent superconductor bulks.

In contrast, the adjacent superconductor bulks constituting the superconductor unit and as set forth in Claim 1, comes into contact with each other without a gap. Again, Sung describes that the superconductor unit is constituted by the two superconductor bulks placed with a gap between them in order to off-set the force such as the weight applied to the

rotating member by using the magnetic pressure. As such, the above-mentioned object of Sung is different from the object of one or more examples of the present invention which is to diminish the eddy currents occurring in the permanent magnet units and in the yokes due to the unevenness of magnetic fields set up by the superconductor unit having the plurality of superconductor bulks to ensure a reduced rotation loss. Therefore, even if the superconductor unit of Takahata is replaced by that of Sung, the example of the present invention according to Claim 1 cannot be obtained. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for at least the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

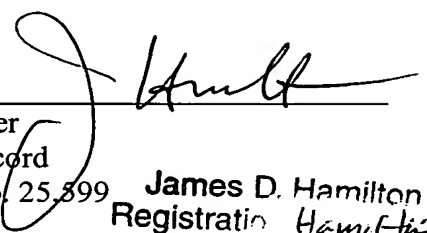
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